

MOIRA DOWNES



HISTORIC GRANTS

A group of properties throughout the state were recently awarded grants by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, including several local structures.

The Thomas-Webster Estate in **Marshfield** was given \$100,000 for structural stabilization, roof work, and restoration; the Nathaniel Winsor Jr. House in **Duxbury** was awarded a \$140,000 grant to help finance a planned acquisition by the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society; the Family Service of Norfolk County received \$38,000 to offset the costs of masonry, roof work, and other repairs to its building in **Dedham Square**; the **Middleborough Town Hall** was awarded \$75,000 for new siding and slate work; Thomas Crane Public Library in **Quincy** was awarded \$100,000 for exterior renovation; and the Grand Army of the Republic Hall in **Scituate** will receive \$15,000 for structural damage repair.

The grants are part of the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, which was established by the state to preserve buildings that have played a role in the history of the state's cities and towns. All grants are given as matching grants, essentially doubling money raised by the community for preservation.

Meanwhile, the City of Quincy was given a \$50,000 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management as part of a Historic Landscape Preservation Grant to help finance the purchase of 108 trees in Mount Wollaston Cemetery.

DEMOLITION DELAY

Two towns are in the process of offering more protection to their historic buildings.

Duxbury voters last week approved a "demo-delay" bylaw, which mandates that anyone looking to demolish certain historic structures in town must wait six months before doing so. The delay would give the community a chance to find reasonable alternatives to the demolition.

The same issue will be debated Tuesday night in **Canton**, where residents will be asked to vote on the issue at Town Meeting April 27.

The bylaw is designed to prevent a situation where a developer or homeowner buys a structure and tears it down before the community is aware the building was historically significant.